

I. (12 points) Read the texts below and decide which variant (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.

People come to this small northern country for many reasons, lured, perhaps, by the promise of spectacular (1) _____, friendly natives and a vibrant arts scene. Some are searching for their family (2) _____ or others just want to get away from it all and, digging (3) _____ old memories from their English Lit class of gallant heroes engaging in larger-than-life struggles, their (4) _____ wander to faraway lands, to (5) _____ familiar yet different destinations. Why not go to Scotland? But what kind of country are they coming to and what should they expect once they get there? Scotland (6) _____ of an area of 30,418 square miles - so it's a fairly compact and "doable" country - with a population of about five million people - not too small, not too big. It is one of the three countries that form the political (7) _____ called Great Britain, the other two being, of course, England and Wales, which, along (8) _____ their fourth partner, Northern Ireland, becomes the United Kingdom. Scotland is bordered on three sides by water and on its fourth by England, which has had (9) _____ its advantages and disadvantages. Geographically speaking, the country can be (10) _____ into three broad areas, the Southern Uplands, the Central Lowlands, and the Highlands. Although the rugged Highlands (11) _____ about two-thirds of the land area, the (12) _____ majority of the population lives in the Central Belt between Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, and Edinburgh, Scotland's capital.

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|-----|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | A scene | B scenery | C view | D panorama |
| 2. | A roots | B race | C basis | D source |
| 3. | A off | B down | C on | D up |
| 4. | A head | B brains | C spirits | D minds |
| 5. | A sometimes | B someday | C somehow | D sometime |
| 6. | A consists | B includes | C embraces | D comprises |
| 7. | A entirety | B entitle | C entry | D entity |
| 8. | A with | B to | C in | D for |
| 9. | A either | B both | C but | D also |
| 10. | A separated | B broke | C parted | D divided |
| 11. | A take out | B take in | C take up | D take off |
| 12. | A expansive | B vast | C expanding | D spacious |

II. (15 points) Fill the gaps in the text below with ONE suitable word.

When coming up (1) _____ creative ways to promote their business, companies should carefully think through their plans to avoid marketing blunders that might cause more harm (2) _____ good. Many professionals don't stop and consider the full picture of how their marketing ideas will come across to the people they hope to reach. For example, the Chevrolet Nova was a great selling car in (3) _____ United States. (4) _____, when the automobile manufacturer introduced the vehicle in Mexico, sales were dismal. Why? (5) _____ you speak Spanish (6) _____ all, you know that *no va* translates into *no go*. (7) _____ wants to buy a car (8) _____ won't go? You have to consider the native (9) _____ of your target customers when (10) _____ products.

The Coca Cola Company (11) _____ a lot of time and money developing, distributing, and marketing *New Coke* only to discover that their customers were loyal to "(12) _____" Coke. Coca Cola drinkers are notoriously loyal, and had absolutely (13) _____ interest in switching to a newer version of their favorite product. The moral of the story here is that change, just (14) _____ the sake of doing something different, (15) _____ make a sound marketing strategy.

III. (20 points) Rephrase the following sentences so that the meaning stays the same and using the word in capitals. You must not change the word in capitals.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. It started snowing two hours ago.
It _____ two hours. | FOR |
| 2. It really would be best if you reported it to the police right away.
You really _____ to the police right away. | BETTER |
| 3. The manager told me I had to take off my shoes before I entered the restaurant.
The manager _____ my shoes before I entered the restaurant. | INSISTED |
| 4. 'I haven't broken your precious vase!' Anna said. | DENIED |

Anna _____ vase.

5. My friends gave me a surprise party.

I _____ my friends.

6. I think generally women are better than men at learning languages.

I think on _____ successful than women at learning languages.

7. I doubt he lied to you.

He _____ lied to you.

8. He was late because of a traffic jam in the City Centre.

If he hadn't got stuck in a traffic jam in the City Centre, _____ late.

9. Shall we buy her a present?

_____ her a present?

10. 'I believe in what I have done', she said.

She said that she _____ done.

GIVEN

WHOLE

HAVE

BEEN

ABOUT

HAD

IV. READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and complete the tasks:

In the early 1920's, settlers came to Alaska looking for gold. They travelled by boat to the coastal towns of Seward and Knik, and from there by land into the gold fields. The trail they used to travel inland is known today as the Iditarod Trail, one of the National Historic Trails designated by the Congress of the United States. (1) _____ People also used it to get from place to place, including the priests, ministers and judges who had to travel between villages. In the winter, the settlers' only means of travel down this trail was via dog sled.

Once the gold rush ended, many gold-seekers went back to where they had come from, and suddenly there was much less travel on the Iditarod Trail. The introduction of the airplane in the late 1920's meant dog teams were no longer the standard mode of transportation, and, of course, with the airplane carrying the mail and supplies, there was less need for land travel in general. (2) _____

By the mid 1960's, most Alaskans didn't even know the Iditarod Trail existed, or that dog teams had played a crucial role in Alaska's early settlements. Dorothy G. Page, a self-made historian, recognized how few people knew about the former use of sled dogs as working animals and about the Iditarod Trail's role in Alaska's colourful history. (3) _____ She presented her idea to an enthusiastic musher, as dog sled drivers are known, named Joe Redington, Sr. Soon the Pages and the Redingtons were working together to promote the idea of the Iditarod race.

Many people worked to make the first Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race a reality in 1967. (4) _____ To raise interest in the race, a \$25,000 purse was offered, with Joe Redington donating one acre of his land to help raise the funds. The short race, approximately 27 miles long, was put on a second time in 1969.

After these first two successful races, the goal was to lengthen the race a little further to the ghost town of Iditarod by 1973. However, in 1972, the U.S. Army reopened the trail as a winter exercise, and so in 1973, the decision was made to take the race all the way to the city of Nome—over 1,000 miles. There were many who believed it could not be done and that it was crazy to send a bunch of mushers out into the vast, uninhabited Alaskan wilderness. (5) _____ 22 mushers finished that year, and to date over 400 people have completed it.

A. (10 points) Five sentences have been removed from the text. Select the appropriate sentence for each gap in the text. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

A. To raise awareness about this aspect of Alaskan history, she came up with the idea to have a dog sled race over the Iditarod Trail.

B. But the race went!

C. Reindeer were also used for travelling from one village to another.

D. The Aurora Dog Mushers Club, along with men from the Adult Camp in Sutton, helped clear years of overgrowth from the first nine miles of the Iditarod Trail.

E. The Iditarod Trail quickly became a major thoroughfare in Alaska, as the mail and supplies were carried across this trail.

F. The final blow to the use of the dog teams was the appearance of snowmobiles.

B. (8 points) For the following questions, choose the answer (A, B, C, D) which fits according to the text.

1) The primary purpose of this passage is to

- A. recount the history of the Iditarod trail and the race that memorializes it
- B. describe the obstacles involved in founding the Iditarod race
- C. outline the circumstances that led to the establishment of the Iditarod Trail
- D. reestablish the important place of the Iditarod Trail in Alaska's history

2) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that all of the following contributed to the disuse of the Iditarod Trail except

- A. more modern forms of transportation
- B. depleted gold mines
- C. highway routes to ghost towns
- D. reduced demand for land travel

3) According to the passage, the initial Iditarod race

- A. was funded through the sale of musher entrance fees
- B. was founded by an advocate for Alaskan history
- C. ended at the ghost town of Iditarod
- D. boasted a total of 400 entrants

4) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that because the U.S. Army reopened the Iditarod Trail in 1972,

- A. more people could compete in the Iditarod race
- B. the mushers had to get permission from the U.S. Army to hold the race
- C. the trail was cleared all the way to Nome
- D. the Iditarod race became a seasonal Army competition

V. (10 points) Read the text below and use the words given in capitals to form words that fit in the gaps. The words in capitals are given in the order in which you need to use them.

1 –IMPORTANT; 2 – FUNDING; 3 – COMPETITION; 4 – NUMBER; 5 – ADVANCE; 6 – FORMATION; 7 – INSTINCT; 8 – LANGUAGE; 9 – CONVERSATION; 10 – ADVANTAGE;

There has been much debate in recent times about when young people should take up a second language. This has been especially fuelled in recent times by the increasing (1) _____ placed on the English language. It is now commonplace to see parents providing a substantial amount of (2) _____ on additional tuition on language lessons to give their children every (3) _____ edge. In the past decade, language institutes have sprung up in (4) _____ urban centres, all claiming to provide rapid (5) _____ in English.

There has been a push by many parents to expose their children to English in their (6) _____ years. This, many claim, will make the language more (7) _____ and ensure that all pronunciation errors can be avoided. There is some evidence which points to youngsters who have been raised in (8) _____ families, where the language spoken at home is different from the one that they (9) _____ with in their external environment. While these children can switch between two languages with greater ease, it remains to be seen whether this is (10) _____ when learning additional languages.

VI. (25 points) Write a 8-10 narrative paragraph starting with the following words:

'I have never been superstitious; black cats, walking under a ladder, Friday, 13, they all meant nothing to me. And yet, one freezing cold day...'

SCRIEȚI RĂSPUNSURILE PE FOAIA DE RĂSPUNS (ANSWER SHEET). BARAȚI TOATE SPAȚIILE NECOMPLETATE. TIMP DE LUCRU: 3 ORE. NU SE ACORDĂ PUNCTE DIN OFICIU.

INSPECTORATUL ȘCOLAR AL MUNICIPIULUI BUCUREȘTI
OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ, 2012- 2013
ETAPA PE ȘCOALA – CLASA A IX-A -

PUNCTAJ SI BAREM
VARIANTA 1

I. (12 puncte)

1B 2A 3D 4D 5C 6A 7D 8A 9B 10D 11C 12B

II. (15 puncte)

1-with 2-than 3-the 4-However 5-If 6-at 7-Who 8-that/which 9-language/tongue 10-naming 11-spent/invested 12-old 13-no 13-for 15-doesn't/won't

III. (20 puncte)

- 1... has been snowing for.....
- 2... had better report
- 3... insisted on my/me taking off....
- 4... denied having broken/breaking/that she had broken my precious....
- 5... was given a surprise party by.....
- 6... the whole, men are less....
- 7... couldn't have/could not have/can't have/cannot have....
- 8... he wouldn't have been....
9. What/How about buying....
- 10... believed in what she had

IV. (18 puncte)

- A. 1-E 2-F 3-A 4-D 5-B
B. 1-A 2-C 3-B 4-C

V. (10 puncte)

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. importance | 6. formative |
| 2. funds | 7. instinctive |
| 3. competitive | 8. bilingual |
| 4. numerous | 9. converse |
| 5. advancement | 10. advantageous |

VI. (25 points)

NOTĂ: Pentru subiectele II și III se acceptă orice variantă posibilă corectă.